

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Austin R. Baer

Confirmation No: 1131

Serial No.: 10/561,888

Examiner: Chuck Y. Mah

Filed: December 20, 2005

Group Art Unit: 3677

For: **Hinge with Stiffened Leaf**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

APPLICANT'S INTERVIEW SUMMARY
filed electronically

This Interview Summary is submitted pursuant to 37 CFR §1.133 to complete the written record for the above-referenced application.

Applicant appreciated the courtesy of the telephonic interview held on February 5, 2008 between Examiner Chuck Mah and the Applicant's undersigned representative. Pending independent claims 1, 3, 12, 25, 47 and proposed new independent claim 53 were discussed with respect to the non-final Office Action dated October 31, 2007 and rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103. U.S. Patent 1,097,458 to McKinney was discussed in reference to the rejections. Proposed informal claim amendments, proposed new claim 53, and italicized limitations in the foregoing claims faxed to the Examiner in an informal transmission on January 30, 2008 and appended hereto were discussed.

Applicant submitted that McKinney did not disclose a continuous hinge mountable along substantially the entire length of a hinge object, a mounting portion of such a hinge offset and parallel to the base portion of hinge, and hole reinforcement disposed in a cavity and extending outwards. Further understanding of Applicant's position may be obtained by reference to Applicant's Amendment and Response to Non-Final Office Action filed February 21, 2008, which is of record in this case. Tentative agreement was reached that the §102 rejection in view of McKinney may be overcome by the foregoing structures as claimed, subject to further consideration by the Examiner after the interview. The Examiner will consider the §103 issues in view thereof after Applicants formal Office Action response is filed. Applicant indicated that

proposed new claim 53 would not be submitted without prejudice to expedite prosecution and avoid raising any new issues. Applicant agreed to submit the proposed amendments and related discussion in an official response to the Office Action for the Examiner's further consideration.

This Applicant's Interview Summary is being timely filed less than one month from the interview date as prescribed in Form PTOL-413 mailed February 15, 2008. Accordingly, no fees are believed to be due. Should any extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and/or other fees be required with this submission, the Commissioner is authorized charge all fees due to our deposit account **04-1679**.

Applicant respectfully requests entry of this Interview Summary into the official record. The Office is kindly requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative directly at 215.979.1554 with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



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February 28, 2008
Date

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1. A pinned continuous hinge suitable for mountable along substantially the entire length of a hinged object ~~continuous hinge applications~~, the hinge comprising:

a first hinge member including at least one first knuckle and a first longitudinally-extending leaf connected thereto, the first leaf including a pair of parallel spaced-apart longitudinally-extending base portions and a longitudinally-extending substantially flat mounting portion disposed therebetween, the mounting portion offset and parallel to the base portions, the mounting portion defining a longitudinally-extending cavity between the base portions, a first plurality of holes *defined by the mounting portion* and spaced along a first longitudinal axis, a second plurality of holes *defined by the mounting portion* and spaced along a second longitudinal axis, at least one each of the first and the second plurality of holes having an annular *reinforcement disposed proximate to the hole in the cavity* and extending outwards from the mounting portion, the mounting portion and reinforcement further defining a conical surface extending through the mounting portion and reinforcement around the periphery of the hole;

a second hinge member including at least one second knuckle and a second longitudinally-extending leaf connected thereto; the second leaf including a pair of parallel spaced-apart longitudinally-extending base portions and a longitudinally-extending substantially flat mounting portion disposed therebetween, the mounting portion offset and parallel to the base portions, the mounting portion defining a longitudinally-extending cavity between the base portions, a third plurality of holes defined by the mounting portion and spaced along a third longitudinal axis, a fourth plurality of holes defined by the mounting portion and spaced along a fourth longitudinal axis, at least one each of the third and the fourth plurality of holes having an annular

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reinforcement disposed proximate to the hole in the cavity and extending outwards from the mounting portion, the mounting portion and reinforcement further defining a conical surface extending through the mounting portion and reinforcement around the periphery of the hole; and

a pin received through the first and second knuckles to pivotably connect the first and second hinge members.

3. A continuous hinge suitable for mountable along substantially the entire length of a hinged object ~~continuous hinge applications~~, the hinge comprising:

at least one first longitudinally-extending leaf having a length and including a base portion having a substantially flat first surface and a second surface with a thickness defined therebetween, and at least one mounting portion having a first substantially flat top surface and a second surface with a thickness defined therebetween, *the first mounting portion surface offset and parallel to the first base portion surface*; and

at least one hole defined by the mounting portion between the first surface and the second surface, the hole having a conical surface; and

an annular reinforcement disposed on the second surface of the mounting portion proximate to the hole, the reinforcement extending outwards from the second surface.

12. A continuous hinge suitable for mountable along substantially the entire length of a hinged object ~~continuous hinge applications~~, the hinge comprising:

at least one first longitudinally-extending leaf mountable to a hinged object, the leaf having a length and including a first and a second base portion each having a substantially flat first surface and a second surface with a thickness defined therebetween, and at least one mounting portion having a thickness defined between a *substantially flat first surface* and a

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second surface, *the first mounting portion surface offset and parallel to the base portion surfaces;*

at least one hole defined by the mounting portion between the first surface and the second surface, the hole having a conical surface; and

an annular reinforcement disposed on the second surface of the mounting portion proximate to the hole, the reinforcement disposed in a longitudinally-extending cavity defined by the mounting portion and base portions, the reinforcement extending outwards from the second surface;

wherein the cavity extends along the entire length of the first leaf.

25. A continuous hinge suitable for mountable along substantially the entire length of a hinged object ~~continuous hinge applications~~, the hinge comprising:

a first longitudinally-extending leaf having a length, the first leaf including a substantially flat longitudinally-extending base portion and at least one substantially flat longitudinally-extending mounting portion offset and parallel to the base portion to define a longitudinally-extending cavity between the mounting portion and the base portion, the mounting portion extending along the entire length of the first leaf;

a longitudinally-extending joining member pivotably connected to the first longitudinally-extending leaf;

a second longitudinally-extending leaf pivotably connected to the longitudinally-extending joining member; and

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a plurality of work-hardened annular reinforcements formed in the cavity and each reinforcement defining a conical mounting hole for receiving a fastener for mounting the first leaf to the hinged object.

~~means for supporting a majority of a side surface of a head of a standard No. 12 undercut flat conical head screw dimensioned per American Society of Mechanical Engineers National Standard ASME B18.6.4-1998, entitled "Thread Forming and Thread Cutting Tapping Screws and Metallic Drive Screws (Inch Series)" issued Dec. 31, 1999, when at least a portion of the head of the screw is in the cavity.~~

47. A continuous hinge suitable for mountable along substantially the entire length of a hinged object ~~continuous hinge applications~~, the hinge comprising:

at least one longitudinally-extending leaf having a length and including a longitudinally-extending base portion having an underside and a thickness, and at least one longitudinally-extending substantially flat raised mounting portion having an underside and a thickness, *the underside of the mounting portion surface offset and parallel to the underside of the base portion surface* to define a cavity having a depth;

at least one hole disposed in the raised mounting portion to attach the leaf to the hinged object, the hole having a conical surface; and

a work-hardened reinforcing ring having a thickness disposed on the underside of the raised mounting portion around the hole, the ring extending into the cavity radially outwards from the hole and perpendicular to the underside of the mounting portion, wherein a combined thickness through the raised mounting portion and ring is greater than the thickness of the raised portion.

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52. (to be cancelled)

53. (new) A continuous door hinge mountable along substantially the entire length of a door, the hinge comprising: [Disclosure Support: FIGS. 4A-C, 6, 8; paras. 0071, 0068, etc.]

a pair of opposing hinge leaves arranged in parallel relation to each other and pivotally connected together by a joining member, each leaf having a length and including:

a pair of base portions lying in a first base plane for engaging one of a door or a door frame;

a raised mounting rail formed between the base portions and lying in a second plane parallel to the first plane, the rail having a length coextensive with the length of the leaf;

a cavity defined below the raised rail; and

a plurality of annular reinforcements formed on an underside of the raised rail in the cavity, the reinforcements having a height extending from the rail to the first base plane, the rail and reinforcements together defining a conical fastener hole configured for receiving a flat head screw;

wherein the annular reinforcements are *work hardened* to resist screw pull-through.

[Disclosure Support: para. 0016]